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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Forty-fourth session
Vienna, 20-29 March 2001
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Duration of the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

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Note by the Secretariat

Background and summary of current arrangements

1. At its forty-third session, held in March 2000, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to include the question of the duration of its sessions as an item of the agenda for its forty-fourth session. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a background paper identifying the daily operational and other budgetary cost implications of convening the Commission. The background paper was to include information about the duration of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, such as the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in order to enhance awareness of the work of the Council in general. The present note by the Secretariat has been prepared in response to that request.

A. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

2. By resolution 1991/39 of 21 June 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should meet annually for a period not exceeding eight working days. The Council also decided that the Commission should establish the Committee of the Whole to examine specific technical items on the agenda referred to it by the Commission, as well as draft decisions and draft resolutions. The

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Committee meets concurrently with the annual session of the Commission for a period not exceeding four working days.

3. The Council also decided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be held in December of odd-numbered years to approve the initial programme and support budget for the following biennium and the final version of the programme and support budget for the biennium that was drawing to a close for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

4. The Commission meets at its annual regular session for a period not exceeding eight working days. During odd-numbered years, it holds a reconvened session to approve the budget of the Fund of UNDCP. In response to the request of the Commission, the daily operational and other budgetary costs for servicing the forty-third session of the Commission in 2000 are attached (see annex). The costs incurred (472,775 United States dollars) include translation, reproduction and distribution of documents, as well as interpretation services and expenses such as meetings planning and the running of the Office of the Chief, Conference Services, during a session of the Commission. Other factors such as the need to hold another meeting in parallel to that of the Commission, or the need to recruit additional staff, may increase the costs given herein.

B. Other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

5. With regard to the duration of the sessions of other functional commissions of the Council, it should be noted that the duration of both the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is eight days, whereas the Commission on the Status of Women meets for 15 days.

Annex

Expenditures incurred in 2000 for the forty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Item	Number or percentage	Costs	
		Per item	Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N) (R)
		(United States dollars)	
Interpretation			
Expenditure during 2000			
Total	-	3 609 157	100 995
Freelance	-	1 937 478	-
Interpretation days			
Total	7 391	-	-
Freelance	3 643	-	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N)	198	-	-
Unit rate for one interpreter day			
Regular staff and freelance	-	488	-
Freelance	-	532	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (weighted average for regular staff and freelance) (R)	-	510	-
Meetings planning			
Regular staff			
Expenditure during 2000	-	361 785	3 648
Meetings during 2000			
Total	2 386	-	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N)	24	-	-
Unit rate to service one meeting (R)	-	152	-
Temporary assistance			
Expenditure during 2000	-	221 586	6 336
Days of service during 2000			
Total	2 507	-	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N)	72	-	-
Unit rate for one day of service of local staff (R)	-	88	-
Translation services			
Expenditure during 2000	-	8 493 540	323 690
Pages translated (internal)			
Total	46 576	-	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N)	1 775	-	-
Unit rate per page (R)	-	182	-
Reproduction (internal)			
Expenditure during 2000	-	267 013	16 039
Impressions made			
Total	10 835 450	-	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N)	650 862	-	-
Unit rate per impression (R)	-	0.0246	-

Item	*Number or percentage*	*Costs*	
		Per item	*Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N x R)[a]*
		(United States dollars)	
Distribution			
Expenditure during 2000	-	803 654	112
Documents distributed			
Total	2 808 298	-	-
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (N)	393	-	-
Unit rate per document (R)	-	0.2862	-
Subtotal			**450 820**
Conference Services			
Expenditure during 2000			
Total	-	18 430 314	-
Office of the Chief	-	898 177	-
Percentage share of the Office of the Chief in total expenditure (P)	4.87	-	-
Overhead charges of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (P x subtotal)	-	-	21 955
Total			**472 775**

Note: Totals may not add precisely because of rounding.

[a] For each category of expenditure, except Conference Services, N refers to the number of units required for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and R refers to the unit rate.